

Can (literary) translation practice speak?

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The contribution deals with a methodology of sociologically informed analysis of translation strategies from the translators' practice perspective. The background is joint research of a translation scholar and a sociologist on translation strategies used by translators of fiction from English to Czech in the period 2000-2016, whose aim is to generalise strategies to the level of the norms of fiction translation. The contribution addresses the issue of how to conceptualise the complex relationships between translation strategies discovered by textual analyses, translator's habitus inferred from biographical interviews and translators' practice, while avoiding reductionism and the danger of "imposing a simple conceptualization on a complex reality" (Marais 2015, 19).

Sociologically, it is based on the definition of practical logic, which claims that practice cannot speak in any discourse (Bourdieu 1990). According to Bourdieu, practice excludes reflection of its own possibilities and of the principles governing it. In the case of translating, however, this obstacle can be surpassed – by merging sociological data on how translators narratively "do" their decisions with translational data on their translations, practice itself can speak through its observable results. The contribution introduces the methodological principles of this "merging" and demonstrates them on pilot research results. It compares translation strategies of two Czech literary translators, analysed on three levels: (1) doxa: what translators say they are doing (data from biographical interviews with translators); (2) observable results: what translators really did (data from textual analyses of translations); (3) the essence of translation practice: what translators do in the process of translation. The contribution cannot discuss conditions of the genesis of translation practice (positions of translators within the Czech field of translation etc.). Nevertheless, these conditions are taken into consideration.

Key words: methodology; literary translation; Bourdieu's theory; practical logic; translation strategies; translation practice

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